

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, GE, BE, US

SUBJECT: BELGIAN-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BERLIN 6918 B.) BONN 20851

1. DURING PAST FEW MONTHS, DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN REGULAR  
CONTACT WITH BELGIAN EMBASSY ON QUESTION OF NATIONALITY AND  
OTHER DETAILS OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR. IN ALL  
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DISCUSSIONS, BELGIAN OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING DEFINITION OF

NATIONALITY HAS BEEN AS STRONG AS THAT REPORTED IN REFTELS.

2. APPARENTLY SHARING BELGIAN CHARGE'S APPREHENSION (REF (B)) ABOUT POSSIBLE GDR PRESSURE DURING LATE FEBRUARY VISIT OF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO EAST BERLIN, FRG AMBASSADOR VON STADEN CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON FEBRUARY 9 WITH A REQUEST THAT THE US WEIGH IN WITH THE BELGIANS ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION. HARTMAN ASSURED VON STADEN WE WOULD DO SO AND WOULD REITERATE LINE TAKEN WITH GDR AMBASSADOR SIEBER ON THIS ISSUE THIS WEEK (STATE 28732 NOTAL).

3. EUR/CE OFFICER REPEATED US OPPOSITION TO INCLUSION OF DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY DURING PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH BELGIAN DCM CAHEN LATER ON FEBRUARY 9. DEPARTMENT OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT SUCH A DEFINITION HAD NEVER BEEN INCLUDED IN A US BILATERAL CONSULAR ARRANGEMENT, WE DID NOT INTEND TO BE DRAWN INTO AN INNER-GERMAN DISPUTE IN THIS MANNER. DEPARTMENT OFFICER REITERATED TO CAHEN THAT OUR POSITION CONTINUED TO BE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DEFINITION, EITHER IN THE AGREEMENT OR IN ANY RELATED STATEMENTS OR DOCUMENTS OUTSIDE THE TEXT ITSELF.

4. CAHEN SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE US POSITION AND REPEATED THAT BELGIUM HAD NO INTENTION OF GIVING IN TO GDR PRESSURE. HE ADDED THAT THE US STATEMENT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN LIGHT OF UPCOMING VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER TO EAST BERLIN.

5. CAHEN ADDED THAT BELGIANS HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR THE COUNTRIES NOW NEGOTIATING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE GDR (US, BELGIUM, ITALY AND FRANCE) TO CONSULT AS A GROUP ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE GDR POSITION. CAHEN WONDERED IF THE US MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO BRUSSELS FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY A SPECIAL TRIP FROM WASHINGTON FOR SUCH A MEETING, BUT THAT ONE EUR/CE OFFICER FAMILIAR WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS

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WOULD BE IN BELGIUM ON MARCH 15 AND 16 FOR A NATO MEETING (LIVE OAK CRITIQUE). IF THIS TIME PERIOD WAS ACCEPTABLE TO BELGIANS AND OTHERS, A MEETING COULD PERHAPS BE ARRANGED ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 16 OR ON SOME OTHER AGREEABLE DATE. CAHEN SAID HE WOULD SUGGEST THIS POSSIBILITY TO HIS AUTHORITIES AND INFORM US OF THEIR RESPONSE.

6. FOR EMBASSY BRUSSELS: SINCE BELGIANS HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO REPEAT OUR POSITION ON NATIONALITY QUESTION IN BRUSSELS OR TO APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON QUESTION OF BROADER DISCUSSION OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR. IF QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS IS RAISED BY BELGIAN SIDE, EMBASSY SHOULD REPLY THAT DEPARTMENT AGREES A MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL. EUR/CE OFFICER WOULD BE ABLE

TO TAKE PART DURING WEEK OF MARCH 16, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO BRUSSELS ESPECIALLY FOR SUCH A MEETING.

7. FOR ROME: DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS IN SIMILAR TERMS WITH ITALIAN DCM. HOWEVER, SINCE CONTACT WITH ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN AS REGULAR AS WITH THE BELGIANS, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REITERATE OUR POSITION TO APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. IF ASKED, EMBASSY MAY ALSO PROVIDE OUR VIEWS ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
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